

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01262 01 OF 02 171451Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----026662 171453Z /43

P R 171408Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7705  
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 1262

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, PDIP, ET, SO, US, YO  
SUBJECT: LATEST YUGOSLAV VIEWS ON HORN AND US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS

REF: (A) STATE 067384 (NOTAL), (B) ADDIS ABABA 1261 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. YUGOSLAVS ARE SATISFIED WITH THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER'S  
VISIT TO ETHIOPIA DESPITE FAILURE TO SEE SICK MENGISTU. THEY  
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REPORTEDLY WORKED ON IMPROVING ETHIO-US RELATIONS AND UNDER-  
MINING CONTINUATION OF LARGE-SCALE SOVIET-CUBAN PRESENCE.  
WITH PATIENCE, US CAN BE THE WINNERS IN ETHIOPIA, CONCLUDED  
YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR. MOST IMPORTANT KEYS TO FUTURE ARE GETTING  
SIAD BARRE TO RENOUNCE SOMALIA'S IRREDENTIST CLAIMS TO THE  
OGADEN AND A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IN ERITREA -- TWO YUGOSLAV  
OBJECTIVES. IN MEANTIME, YUGOSLAVIA IS TRYING TO CONVINCE

ETHIOPIA TO PRACTICE TRUE FAITH OF NON-ALIGNMENT AND, TO THIS  
END, WORKING ON BOTH USG AND EPMG IS PART OF GAME PLAN,  
WE BELIEVE. END SUMMARY.

1. YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR VOJINOVIC BRIEFED ME THIS MORNING,  
AT MY REQUEST, ON FOREIGN MINISTER MINIC'S VISIT TO  
ADDIS, COMPLETED YESTERDAY. VISIT WAS CHARACTERIZED AS  
"VERY SUCCESSFUL" DESPITE CHAIRMAN MENGISTU'S INABILITY  
TO RECEIVE DELEGATION (OR GDR DELEGATION WHICH HAD ARRIVED  
EVEN EARLIER) DUE TO FLU-CAUSED CONFINEMENT TO BED.  
PRESSED TO STATE WHETHER YUGOSLAV DELEGATION WAS CONVINCED  
MENGISTU'S ILLNESS IS REAL, VOJINOVIC SAID HE HAD NO REASON  
TO DOUBT OFFICIAL EXPLANATION. AT FIRST, MEETING SCHEDULED  
FOR TUESDAY MORNING HAD ONLY BEEN POSTPONED TO WEDNESDAY IN  
HOPE MENGISTU WOULD BE UP. FURTHER CLARIFICATION SHOULD COME,  
HE SAID, FROM VISIT OF CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA WHO  
HAD JUST ARRIVED THIS MORNING. HE ADMITTED TO A BIT OF  
SKEPTICISM, HOWEVER.

2. VOJINOVIC THEN PRECEDED IMMEDIATELY TO IMPRESS UPON ME  
THAT MINIC HAD SPENT A CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF HIS CONVERSA-  
TIONS WITH BOTH FOREIGN MINISTER FELLEKE AND PMAC SECGEN FIKRE-  
SELASSIE (SITTING IN FOR MENGISTU) ON HIS RECENT TRIP TO  
WASHINGTON. THEY WERE INFORMED OF US INTENTIONS TO IMPROVE  
RELATIONS, REMINDED OF US DESIRE TO GET AGREEMENT FOR AMBAS-  
SADOR, AND WERE TOLD CATEGORICALLY THAT US HAD NOT SUPPLIED  
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ARMS TO SOMALIA. IN RESPONSE TO MY SEVERAL QUESTIONS  
CONCERNING EPMG REATION TO THESE POINTS, VOJINOVIC ADMITTED  
ETHIOPIANS HAD NO COMMENT DIRECTLY. NEVERTHELESS, HE IS CON-  
VINCED THAT THEY REALLY DO APPRECIATE THAT WE DID NOT SUPPLY  
WEAPONS TO SOMALIA DESPITE CONTINUING GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED  
PRESS ASSERTIONS TO THE CONTRARY. "YOU ARE THE WINNER," HE  
SAID. "THEY KNOW VERY WELL THAT SOVIETS SUPPLIED ARMS TO  
SOMALIA WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF SOMALIA'S IRREDENTIST IN-  
TENTIONS. NOW THEY KNOW YOU DID NOT SUPPLY SOMALIA DURING  
THE WAR. SO, I HOPE YOU WILL BE PATIENT."

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----026774 171459Z /43

P R 171408Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7706

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT HAVANA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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EXDIS

3. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT ETHIOPIANS WERE "VERY HAPPY" BY DAVID AARON'S VISIT -- BECAUSE OF THE GESTURE, BECAUSE THEY LIKED HIM PERSONALLY ("THE FOUND HIM A WISE MAN."), AND BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN US POSITION FOLLOWING HIS RETURN TO WASHINGTON. (HE WAS, OF COURSE, REFERRING TO CALLS FOR SOMALI WITHDRAWAL AND PUBLIC PROMISE NOT TO DISHONOR BOUNDARIES OF KENYA AND ETHIOPIA.)

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4. QUESTIONED ABOUT DISCUSSIONS ON THE FUTURE OF CUBAN AND SOVIET PRESENCES IN ETHIOPIA, VOJINOVIC SAID ETHIOPIANS ARE FURIOUS OVER RECENT GRANMA ARTICLE (HAVANA 666) CLAIMING VICTORY FOR CUBANS. "THEY WILL NEVER FORGET OR FORGIVE THEM," HE INSISTED. LATER HE CAUTIONED, "THE CUBANS ARE SO STUPID. LAST NIGHT THEIR EMBASSY CALLED AROUND TO INVITE SOCIALIST AMBASSADORS TO THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER'S ARRIVAL. THEY SHOULD HAVE LEFT THAT TO THE HOSTS." (VOJINOVIC REFUSED TO GO SINCE ONLY WARSAW PACT EUROPEANS WERE INVITED. HE WILL ATTEND RECEPTION TONIGHT FOR MALMIERCA SINCE FOREIGN MINISTRY PROTOCOL PROMISED

HIM SOME OTHER LATIN AMERICANS WILL BE PRESENT.)

5. VOJINOVIC HAS PREACHED ALL ALONG THAT ETHIOPIANS WOULD TIRE OF RUSSIANS AND CUBANS AS SOON AS THE NEED FOR THEIR HELP HAD ENDED. FOR THAT REASON, HE HOPED HOPED THAT THE ERITREAN QUESTION CAN BE RESOLVED SOON. SUDANESE INITIATIVE IS ESSENTIAL IN BRINGING VARIOUS ERITREAN GROUPS TO NEGOTIATE WITH EPMG, HE FEELS. IF THEY DON'T, ERITREAN FORCES WILL BE DESTROYED AS SOON AS ETHIOPIANS MOVE SOME OF THEIR FORCES FROM THE OGADEN. SUDANESE THINKING ALONG LINES REF B MADE SENSE TO VOJINOVIC.

6. VOJINOVIC WAS LESS COMPLACENT ABOUT HIS MINISTER'S INFLUENCE ON SIAD BARRE TO RENOUNCE SOMALIA'S IRREDENTIST CLAIMS BOTH PUBLICLY AND CONSTITUTIONALLY. HE IS CONVINCED, HOWEVER, THAT IF SOMALIA DOES DROP THEM, THERE WILL BE A BASIS FOR REAL PEACE IN HORN. FOR THAT REASON, MINIC HAD COUNSELED ETHIOPIANS TO DEMONSTRATE MAGNANIMITY AT FORTHCOMING OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE MEETING IN LAGOS AND ELSEWHERE.

7. VOJINOVIC OBVIOUSLY APPROVES OF YUGOSLAVIA'S  
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ROLE AS A MEDIATOR BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE UNITED STATES AND, I BELIEVE, WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY THE GAME. HOW EFFECTIVE HE WILL BE, IS YET TO BE PROVED, BUT AT LEAST WE ARE STILL HERE AS WE FINISH THE CHAPTER ENTITLED "THE OGADEN WAR OF 1977-78", LARGELY BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN MOVING CLOSER TO THE YUGOSLAV POSITION RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND.  
MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

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